Faculty Senate Agenda

Meeting November 9th

Copen Hall – Faculty Lounge

8:15 AM

Meeting called to order at 8:15 by Calvin Becker.

Members Present: Calvin Becker, Lashawna Powers, Leslie Deichman, Alisen Anderson, Roger Ward, Ashlee Jackson, Jessica Robinson, Lori Hackwell.

Absent: Beth Blalock

Old Business or updates from Dr. Stafford:

* Campus committee consolidation: consolidation of committees has been approved. Faculty should be getting an email to sign up for the new committees before Christmas break.
* Inclement Weather Policy—policy has been drafted and approved by the senate. It is ready to be taken to Dr. Grover and Dr. Stafford for edits or approval. (see attached example of the policy)
* Employee turnover: a letter was sent to Dr. Stafford by the faculty senate in order to display a formal concern with the amount of turnover and high level staff leaving Neo. A formal reply was issued and Dr. Stafford addressed the same concerns, however he feels we are in a better budget place now and will start to be able to see positive growth again.
* Shipley Hall inspection—Crossland and one other company have been called to complete the Shipley inspection, but no results have been shared with the Senate yet.
* Covid Incentives—what your videos! A few questions were raised about why faculty and staff are required to “do” something in order to get the COVID incentive—questions about whether or not the taxes change or if it was put into the faculty payroll fund.
* Strategic planning committee—strategic planning committee has met and will continue to meet about the SWOT assessment completed in various groups on campus. Their goal is to create the vision or the college for the next five years and forward.
* Class sizes—the size of certain classes has been brought up to the administration. Dr. Grover was able to address that instructors always have the option to say they do not approve for their classes to be overload. Also, if we will allow for students over the number it makes it more possible for them to be split into two sections if the class becomes too large. Faculty are paid for the overloaded class sections. Concern was also brought up that we have narrowed down so many of the class offerings that we will not have enough full time faculty to teach and more reliance on adjuncts will be needed.

New Business:

* Dr. Grover – Academic Affairs updates and Graduation Alliance—Dr. Grover shared some statistics with the Faculty Senate to show that Graduation alliance has actually recruited almost 100 new students to NEO. They started their first fall at 25 and now have over 125. The fall to fall retention rate is very similar to our typical freshman rate. Research into this program has shown the graduation alliance students were actually more successful in one developmental class over our regular students, so we are looking into the tutoring and support model they used to make these students successful. It has been expressed that we have concern with so many graduation alliance students, it will raise our need for online courses and therefore we will be relying too heavily on adjunct faculty—which is NOT what the senate envisions for our campus.
* Budget committee—A copy of the full printed budget has been requested and received from the admin office a committee chaired by Alisen Anderson other senate members: Lesli Deichman, Roger Ward and Lashawna Powers will start to look into each section over the next several months.
* Salaries and adjunct Pay
* Athletes early release on home game –concern was expressed to Dr. Grover that football players in particular were released early for a home game on a Friday morning, excusing them from classes. Dr. Grover was not aware completely of this particular incident, but did agree to look into when student athletes are being released from classes related to leave times and such. Their goal in academic affairs is to always leave after lunch and most morning classes if at all possible.
* Protocol for student with extended absence for critical reasons – communication should run through Academic Affairs. Confusion for some faculty happened because Covid students are being handled through Student Affairs. Dr. Grover commented especially on finals week—to let the AA office be the “bad” guy and it will take the pressure off of the instructor.